

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, on the grounds that the claims recite a use, but no steps defining the process. These claims have been rewritten to specify methods for hair treatment comprising defined steps (antecedent basis for added claim language is found on page 2, line 29 and page 4, line 15). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 17, 18, and 28 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The offending phrase "or the like" has been deleted.

Claims 16 and 19-27 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Handa (JP 11-139943) in view of Nakagawa et al (JP 48048616A) and Takasu et al (US 5,053,222). It is Applicant's position that the cited references merely variously disclose Applicant's green tea, gentian, and geranium ingredients in combination with numerous other required ingredients, and that the use of Applicant's specified ingredients in combination, without the prior art essential ingredients, is not obvious.

However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has combined claims 16 and 17, and claim 16 now recites solution media useful in the practice of the invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims as presented herein are in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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